



**State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501**

To: Vermont Superintendents
From: Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, Education Transformation and Innovation
Gail Taylor, Director, Research, Standards & Assessment Division
Re: Statewide Transition Plan for *Common Core State Standards*
Date: June 23, 2010

On June 2nd, the final version of the *Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts* (CC) was publicly released. (These standards can be viewed at <http://www.corestandards.org>.) Additional information about the CC is available at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#cc_faq. In addition, Vermont, along with 32 other states, has joined the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), which is submitting a proposal this month to USED for a comprehensive assessment system based on the Common Core. Another multi-state consortium is expected to submit a proposal as well. The USED has indicated that they will fund one or two assessment proposals up to \$160 million each. The announcement of the award will occur in late September.

The Vermont Department of Education is in the process of developing a four-year transition plan that will move curriculum, instruction and assessment from NECAP Grade Expectations and assessments to the CC and SBAC (if funded) or another assessment that measures the CC in 2014-2015. Our first transition step is to work with the National Center for Assessment and our NECAP partners to do a crosswalk/alignment of the NECAP Grade Expectations and the CC. This work will begin in June and be completed by the beginning of SY2010-2011. **At this time, our best information indicates that we will be administering NECAP for the last time in fall 2014.**

We acknowledge that it will take a multi-year effort to support teachers and administrators in moving from current to future standards and assessments. The transition will also include the recently enacted legislative requirement that supervisory unions establish district/SU-wide curriculum by July 2012. In anticipation and support of the ongoing work, the **VT-DOE will establish a statewide Common Core Implementation Committee (CCIC) to assist in guiding the extensive professional development effort necessary to transition to the new standards and assessment system.** This committee will be crucial as we continue to work with SBAC, a multi-state collaborative to connect Vermont educators to the resources and responsibilities that will emanate from that effort. The scope of this work demands that we identify the most effective use of state and local resources to adequately reach all environments in which Vermont students learn.

We are asking that superintendents nominate curriculum leaders from their districts to serve on this committee. In selecting participants, we will need to balance specific content knowledge in literacy and mathematics, as well as geographic representation. Because there are links between ELA and social studies and science, we also welcome the nomination of curriculum leaders in those areas. In addition, we will seek the involvement of higher education and other key professional development partners.

We are maintaining our Vermont Professional Development Network (VPD*Network*) system of network leaders in mathematics, literacy and science and are adding social studies leaders. We intend to provide these leaders with the knowledge and skills to best support professional development in your schools and districts. CCIC will help determine how best to use the network leaders as well as other strategies for effectively using state, local and consortium resources. We anticipate several meetings of the steering group over a school year and pledge to use Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) or other technology, whenever that makes sense, to minimize travel.

Please ask your nominee(s) to complete the attached survey which will provide us with the information we need to establish a representative group.

We have included with this memo the most recent version of the Common Core FAQ which refers to our involvement with SBAC, a map showing the states that are participating in SBAC, two graphics that outline the Theory of Action for the Adaptive Summative Assessment and the Interim Benchmark Assessments that SBAC is proposing, and a chart that outlines the elements and timeline of the transition.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Taylor at gail.taylor@state.vt.us or at 802-828-5158.

TRANSITION CHART FOR STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS

6/11/10

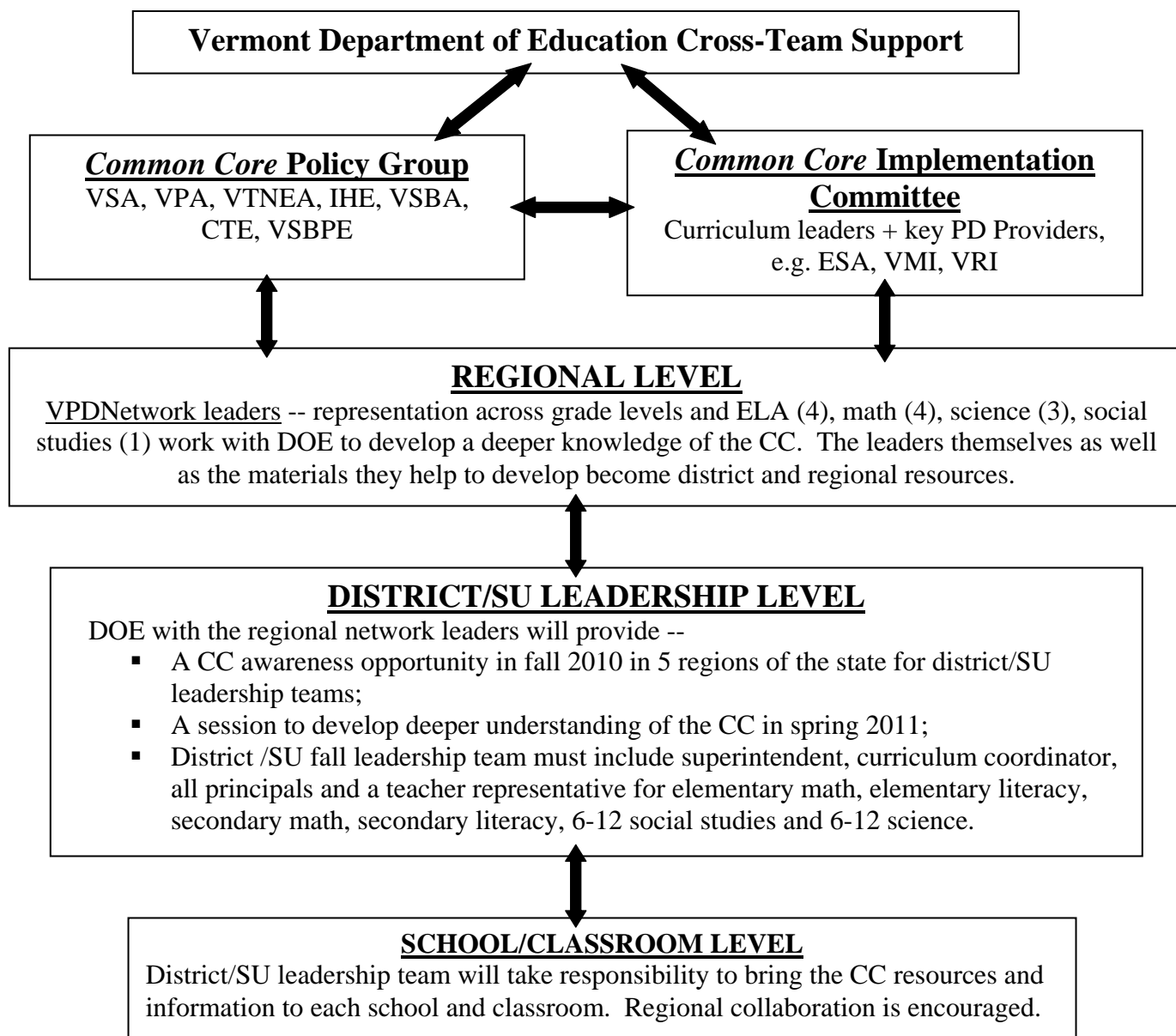
School Year	Standards/Curriculum/Instruction Transition Goals	Assessment Transitions	Other Critical Actions/Dates
SY 2010–2011	<p>Create <u>Common Core Implementation Committee</u></p> <p>Expand and re-focus work with teacher leaders through <i>VPD Networks</i></p> <p>Build educator awareness of the Common Core (CC)</p> <p>Build educator understanding of the alignment between CC and state-assessed GEs and Speaking and Listening standards (Vital Results)</p> <p>Districts begin to understand what the alignment means for their curriculum revision/development</p>	<p>NECAP operational</p> <p>SBAC (if funded) will begin development and communication of assessment resources</p>	<p>CC adopted by SBE at August 2010 meeting</p> <p>Formation of Common Core implementation Committee and Common Core policy Committee</p> <p>Alignment of CC with state-assessed GEs; develop materials for educators based on alignment results</p>
SY 2011-2012	<p>Districts begin modification/development of written curriculum aligned to CC</p> <p>DOE provides resources (materials and teacher leader training) to support districts in this process</p>	NECAP operational	
SY 2012–2013	Districts identify key areas of curriculum shift but maintain instruction so that students will be successful on NECAP	NECAP operational	District-wide curriculum in place by July 2012 (Act 153)
SY 2013–2014	Districts identify key areas of curriculum shift but maintain instruction so that students will be successful on NECAP	(SBAC) pilot NECAP operational	Current plan that continues NECAP assessment through fall 2014 is based on best current information
SY 2014–2015	CC-aligned curriculum fully enacted and assessed by SBAC	NECAP fall operational of previous year (SY2013-14) achievement AND (SBAC) operational for SY2014-2015 achievement	And past transitions when ongoing assessment AND accountability were required when assessments changed

VT-DOE Plan (SY 2010-2011) for Statewide Implementation of the *Common Core State Standards*

GOAL: Each Vermont teacher will have an equitable opportunity over time to develop an understanding, appropriate to their instructional responsibilities, of the *Common Core State Standards* (CC) and its application to curriculum, instruction and assessment.

MODEL: DOE will provide resources and processes that include:

- Statewide network of teacher leaders (VPDNetworks);
- *Common Core* Policy Group to consider and recommend policy for all levels of the system to address access, equity, quality, communication and accountability;
- *Common Core* Implementation Committee to recommend implementation strategies.



Common Core Implementation Committee Nomination Form

Name: _____ Job title: _____

District: _____

Work address: _____

Work phone: _____ Home phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ Years in education: _____

Check content area focus: ☐ *Literacy* ☐ *Mathematics* ☐ *Science* ☐ *Social Studies*

Check Level(s): ☐ elementary ☐ middle level ☐ high school

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS SPECIFICALLY AS POSSIBLE.

1. Describe your experience and skills in providing professional development to educators in your district.

2. Describe how you have guided or how you would guide the development of a standards-based, district-wide curriculum.

3. Please indicate your level of **understanding/application** of Common Core Standards:

low

high

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

4. Is there anything else you would like us to know?.

NOTE: Feel free to send your resume along with this survey.

Please e-mail Gail Taylor (gail.taylor@state.vt.us) or
fax questionnaire to Rose Wheeler (828-6563)
no later than **Wednesday, July 7th**.